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Your reference **Dynamic Content (UK)**

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Request for grant of a Patent

Form 1/77 Patents Act 1977

1 Title of invention

Navigation device displaying dynamic travel information

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Dynamic Content (UK)

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7 Inventorship

The applicant(s) are the sole inventors/joint inventors

Yes ☐ No ☒

8 Checklist

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Priority Documents	~~Yes~~/No
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Patents Form 7/77	~~Yes/No~~
Patents Form 9/77	Yes/~~No~~
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9 Request

We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signed: Origin Limited Date: 15 March 2004

(Origin Limited)

NAVIGATION DEVICE DISPLAYING DYNAMIC TRAVEL INFORMATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the invention

This invention relates to a navigation device that can display dynamic travel information. Dynamic travel information is updated information about road driving and traffic conditions, such as information about congestion, road blocks, adverse weather etc. on particular routes. The information is dynamic in the sense that it can change. The information displayed on the device is ideally completely up to date, although in practice there is some time delay between observing and reporting on road and traffic conditions and receiving those reports at the device. The device finds particular application as an in-car navigation system.

2. Description of the prior art

GPS based navigation devices are well known and are widely employed as in-car navigation systems. Reference may be made to the Navigator series software from the present assignee, TomTom B.V. This is software that, when running on a PDA (such as a Compaq iPaq) connected to an external GPS receiver, enables a user to input to the PDA a start and destination address. The software then calculates the best route between the two end-points and displays instructions on how to navigate that route. By using the positional information derived from the GPS receiver, the software can determine at regular intervals the position of the PDA (typically mounted on the dashboard of a vehicle) and can display the current position of the vehicle on a map and display (and speak) appropriate navigation instructions (e.g. 'turn left in 100 m'). Graphics depicting the actions to be accomplished (e.g. a left arrow indicating a left turn ahead) can be displayed in a status bar and also be superimposed over the applicable junctions/turnings etc in the roads shown in the map itself. Reference may also be made to devices that integrate a GPS receiver into a computing device programmed with a map database and that can generate navigation instructions on a display. The term 'navigation device' refers to a device that enables a user to navigate to a pre-defined destination. The device may have an internal system for receiving location data, such as a GPS receiver, or may merely be connectable to a receiver that can receive location data.

Reference may be made to US 5612881, which shows an in-car navigation device that can display a schematic representation of the entire journey and can display estimated arrival times at various points on the journey. Dynamic travel information is not however included in the display at all.

In-car navigation systems may have access to real-time updated travel information; for example, in the Smartnav™ system from TrafficMaster plc, a central server receives real time updated traffic information from sensors located by the roadside of the UK road network. The server calculates routes to be followed, given a driver's start and destination address, and sends that route information to an in-vehicle device which speaks appropriate instructions to the driver (hence, there is no map display as such). When congestion etc. is spotted that is relevant to a particular driver's route, the server can send a message to that driver's navigation device, which is then relayed as an audio alert to the driver.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In a first aspect, there is a navigation device programmed with a map database and software that enables a route to be planned between two user-defined places, wherein the device is further programmed to be able to display a schematic view of at least part of the route, in which one or more roads that form part of the route are shown together with dynamic travel information relating to the or each road.

Preferably, the schematic view is a schematic view showing the entire route on a single screen. The present invention therefore depicts dynamic travel information in the context of a schematic display of the actual roads that the information relates to. In one implementation, the schematic view is a linear representation of the route and that schematic linear representation is displayed at the same time but separate from a map of a 2-D or 3-D representation of the actual road being travelled along and the current location of the device on that road.

The device can send a request to a remote server over a wireless communications network for dynamic travel information relevant to a defined route, the remote server (i) receiving dynamic travel information from one or more data feeds in relation to numerous roads and (ii) sending the dynamic travel information that is relevant to the defined route to the device in response to the request. Using a server to collect and analyse dynamic travel information is a very efficient and extensible approach, readily enabling new kinds of travel information to be handled and wirelessly distributed to navigation devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which **Figure 1** is a screen shot from a navigation device implementing the present invention; the screen shot shows a plan map view and a status bar running along the bottom of the display;

Figure 2 is a screen shot from the navigation device implementing a 3-D view;

Figure 3, 4 and **5** are other screen shots showing dynamic traffic information superimposed over a road; various zoom levels are shown;

Figure 6 is a screen shot showing a standard navigation view and a 3-D map, with dynamic travel information displayed as a ticker below the status bar;

Figure 7 is a screen shot showing a linear schematic view of the route together with a standard navigation map view;

Figure 8 is a screen shot showing the linear schematic route view, plus more detailed dynamic traffic information;

Figure 9 is a screen shot showing the most detailed level of dynamic travel information;

Figure 10 is a screen shot showing a menu of route re-calculation options;

Figure 11 depicts how different types of traffic flow can be graphically represented;

Figure 12 depicts how different road incidents can be graphically represented;

Figure 13 is a general system diagram showing how the device of the present invention receives dynamic travel information from a remote server over a wireless connection.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

System Overview

The present invention is implemented in software from TomTom B.V. called Navigator. Navigator software runs on a touch screen (i.e. stylus controlled) Pocket PC powered PDA device, such as the Compaq iPaq. It provides a GPS based navigation system when the PDA is coupled with a GPS receiver. The combined PDA and GPS receiver system is designed to be used as an in-vehicle navigation system. The invention may also be implemented in any other arrangement of navigation device, such as one with an integral GPS receiver/computer/display, or a device designed for non-vehicle use (e.g. for walkers) or vehicles other than cars (e.g. aircraft). The navigation device may implement any kind of position sensing technology and is not limited to GPS; it can hence be implemented using other kinds of GNSS (global navigation satellite system) such as the European Galileo system. Equally, it is not limited to satellite based location/velocity systems but can equally be deployed using ground-based beacons or any other kind of system that enables the device to determine its geographic location.

Navigator software, when running on a PDA, results in a navigation device that causes the normal navigation mode screen shown in **Figure 1** to be displayed. This view provides driving instructions using a combination of text, symbols, voice guidance and a moving map. Key user interface elements are the following: a 2-D map **1** occupies most of the screen. The map shows the user's car and its immediate surroundings, rotated in such a way that the direction in which the car is moving is always "up". Running across the bottom quarter of the screen is the status bar **2**. The current location of the device, as the device itself determines using conventional GPS location finding and its orientation (as inferred from its direction of travel) is depicted by an arrow **3**. The route calculated by the device (using route calculation algorithms stored in device memory as applied to map data stored in a map database in device memory) is shown as darkened path **4** superimposed with arrows giving the travel direction. On the darkened path **4**, all major actions (e.g. turning corners, crossroads, roundabouts etc.) are schematically depicted by arrows **5** overlaying the path **4**. The status bar **2** also includes at its left hand side a schematic **6** depicting the next action (here, a right turn). The status bar **2** also shows the distance to the next action (i.e. the right turn – here the distance is

220 meters) as extracted from a database of the entire route calculated by the device (i.e. a list of all roads and related actions defining the route to be taken). Status bar **2** also shows the name of the current road **8**, the estimated time before arrival **9** (here 2 minutes and 40 seconds), the actual estimated arrival time **10** (11.36am) and the distance to the destination **11** (1.4Km). The GPS signal strength is shown in a mobile-phone style signal strength indicator **12**.

If the user touches the centre of the screen **13**, then a navigation screen menu is displayed; from this menu, other core navigation functions within the Navigator application can be initiated or controlled. Allowing core navigation functions to be selected from a menu screen that is itself very readily called up (e.g. one step away from the map display to the menu screen) greatly simplifies the user interaction and makes it faster and easier.

The area of the touch zone which needs to be touched by a user is far larger than in most stylus based touch screen systems. It is designed to be large enough to be reliably selected by a single finger without special accuracy; i.e. to mimic the real-life conditions for a driver when controlling a vehicle; he or she will have little time to look at a highly detailed screen with small control icons, and still less time to accurately press one of those small control icons. Hence, using a very large touch screen area associated with a given soft key (or hidden soft key, as in the centre of the screen **13**) is a deliberate design feature of this implementation. Unlike other stylus based applications, this design feature is consistently deployed throughout Navigator to select core functions that are likely to be needed by a driver whilst actually driving. Hence, whenever the user is given the choice of selecting on-screen icons (e.g. control icons, or keys of a virtual keyboard to enter a destination address, for example), then the design of those icons/keys is kept simple and the associated touch screen zones is expanded to such a size that each icon/key can unambiguously be finger selected. In practice, the associated touch screen zone will be of the order of at least 0.7 cm^2 and will typically be a square zone. In normal navigation mode, the device displays a map. Touching the map (i.e. the touch sensitive display) once (or twice in a different implementation) near to the screen centre (or any part of the screen in another implementation) will then call up a navigation menu (see **Figure 3**) with large icons corresponding to various navigation functions, such as the option to calculate an alternative route, and re-calculate the route so as to avoid the next

section of road (useful when faced with an obstruction or heavy congestion); or recalculate the route so as to avoid specific, listed roads.

The actual physical structure of the device itself may be fundamentally no different from any conventional handheld computer, other than the integral GPS receiver or a GPS data feed from an external GPS receiver. Hence, memory stores the route calculation algorithms, map database and user interface software; a microprocessor interprets and processes user input (e.g. using a device touch screen to input the start and destination addresses and all other control inputs) and deploys the route calculation algorithms to calculate the optimal route. 'Optimal' may refer to criteria such as shortest time or shortest distance, or some other user-related factors.

More specifically, the user inputs his start position and required destination in the normal manner into the Navigator software running on the PDA using a virtual keyboard. The user then selects the manner in which a travel route is calculated: various modes are offered, such as a 'fast' mode that calculates the route very rapidly, but the route might not be the shortest; a 'full' mode that looks at all possible routes and locates the shortest, but takes longer to calculate etc. Other options are possible, with a user defining a route that is scenic – e.g. passes the most POI (points of interest) marked as views of outstanding beauty, or passes the most POIs of possible interest to children or uses the fewest junctions etc.

Roads themselves are described in the map database that is part of Navigator (or is otherwise accessed by it) running on the PDA as lines – i.e. vectors (e.g. start point, end point, direction for a road, with an entire road being made up of many hundreds of such sections, each uniquely defined by start point/end point direction parameters). A map is then a set of such road vectors, plus points of interest (POIs), plus road names, plus other geographic features like park boundaries, river boundaries etc, all of which are defined in terms of vectors. All map features (e.g. road vectors, POIs etc.) are defined in a co-ordinate system that corresponds or relates to the GPS co-ordinate system, enabling a device's position as determined through a GPS system to be located onto the relevant road shown in a map.

Route calculation uses complex algorithms that are part of the Navigator software. The algorithms are applied to score large numbers of potential different routes. The Navigator software then evaluates them against the user defined criteria (or device defaults), such as a full mode scan, with scenic route, past museums, and no speed camera. The route which best meets the defined criteria is then calculated by a processor in the PDA and then stored in a database in RAM as a sequence of vectors, road names and actions to be done at vector end-points (e.g. corresponding to pre-determined distances along each road of the route, such as after 100 meters, turn left into street x).

Dynamic travel information function

Navigator can display dynamic travel information. This can appear in two forms. First, over a normal navigation map view, such as shown in **Figure 3**. Here, the roads to be travelled along are shown in the normal, schematic manner of a digital map. But superimposed over some schematic representations of roads are colour coded arrows; these indicate traffic flow conditions of potential concern to the driver at the overlaid sections of the road. The arrow direction indicates traffic flow direction. **Figure 11** is a key to the meaning of these different arrows. The icons graphically represent:

(i) stationery traffic (red arrows);

(ii) queuing traffic (orange arrows);

(iii) slow traffic (yellow arrows);

(iv) road closure or lane closure or road works (dotted black line)

In addition, a graphical icon representing road works is also shown, indicating the exact location of the road works on a particular road. **Figure 4** shows how the map can be zoomed in using normal zoom controls, such as slider bars; **Figure 5** is at an even higher zoom level.

Figure 6 shows how dynamic traffic information can be incorporated into a ticker at the bottom of the status bar.

Figure 7 shows how the device can also compute and display a schematic view showing the entire route on a single screen; this is the vertical linear representation running along the left hand side of the screen. It therefore accompanies the normal navigation map view (2-D or 3-D) showing the actual road being travelled along and the current location

of the device on that road. All of the major roads forming the route are displayed here; for complex routes involving large numbers of different roads, the device is programmed to prioritise roads for display according to length (in the absence of significant dynamic travel information); if any road on the route has dynamic travel information associated with it, then that road will be included in the schematic 'entire route' representation as a priority. Hence, the constituent elements in this linear representation can alter during the journey as new travel information is received by the device (a later section will describe how dynamic travel information is generated at a remote server and sent to the device). In any event, the schematic linear view of the route (just like the schematic non-linear, map based view of the route in **Figures 3, 4** and **5**) has superimposed over some of its constituent roads colour coded arrows, again indicating in the same way traffic flow conditions at the overlaid sections of the road using the **Figure 11** coding.

In addition to this way of representing traffic flow related dynamic travel information, dynamic travel information can also be represented by a graphical icon or other kind of selectable option. **Figure 12** depicts the graphical icons used and their meaning. These include the following:

(i) accident;
(ii) traffic jam;
(iii) road works;
(iv) road closure;
(v) general incident;
(vi) lane closed;

Apart from graphical icons, it is also possible to use control or check boxes or names. Generally, graphical icons are preferred though. Each icon is positioned adjacent to the affected part of the route it relates to, schematically represented by the vertical linear representation of the entire route. If the user selects a graphical icon, then the device displays more detailed traffic information; the effect of selecting the 'road works' graphic icon indicating road works on the A2 road is shown in **Figure 8.** Selection is achieved by touching the screen at an icon (once, or in some variants a double touch); as noted above, large touch screen activation zones are used - sufficiently large (e.g. $0.7cm^2$ in area or more) to allow an icon to be reliably selected with a fingertip. The detailed information is not only a zoomed in view of the map view of the affected part of the A2

road, but also a textual description of the relevant incident ("In 2.8km, 3.4km of queuing traffic") and the estimated delay ("00.45 hours"). In addition, the device displays an 'avoid' option; if selected by touching the 'avoid' button, then the device automatically re-calculates a route that avoids the affected road. That entire route will then be displayed as a schematic, linear representation, enabling the driver at a glance to check whether there are any traffic incidents or reduced traffic flow affecting any parts of the new route. Implicitly, if no incidents or congestion is shown, then the user can at a glance see that the entire route is a clear one.

If instead of selecting the 'avoid' control option, the driver selects the 'road works' graphic icon again (either the one in the linear representation of the entire route, or the corresponding one in the zoomed in map showing the affected part of the A2), then the device displays more textual information and a larger, more zoomed in map view of the affected part of the A2 road, as shown in **Figure 9**.

From the normal navigation view (e.g. **Figures 1 – 7**), if the driver touches anywhere close to the centre of the map view, then the device automatically tasks away from the map view to a menu of route re-calculation options, as shown in **Figure 10**. The options are:

(a) calculate alternative route: 'plan around traffic jams';

(b) calculate alternative route without including a predefined extent of the road ahead – 'avoid roadblock';

(c) calculate alternative route without including a predefined road;

(d) revert to original route.

For option (c) above, Navigator shows graphical icons for three different roads with a cross through the icon; selecting any one of these initiates a route re-calculation and excludes the defined road. The menu of re-calculation options is itself dynamically updated; it shows the next 3 roads that have associated with them dynamic travel information (these are the ones that the driver is most likely to need to avoid). The device therefore selects roads to include as one of the three by including the next three roads on the route which have some kind of traffic incident or undesirable traffic flow.

Hence, the user can very readily and efficiently initiate a route re-calculation to avoid difficulties.

Figure 13 is an overall system architecture view. It shows the navigation device **131** with a built-in wireless transceiver communicating with a remote, 'traffic' server **133**. One implementation uses a GPRS transceiver, but any form of wireless communication is possible (GSM, SMS messages, other format of message). The traffic server receives dynamic travel information from several data feeds **134** (in some countries, these are supplied by official, government bodies; in others, private organisations supply this data). The server **133** can receive any and all of these data feeds **134** and integrate them to build up as comprehensive a picture of dynamic travel information affecting all roads across one or more countries. Once a device **131** has calculated a route to a destination, it sends that route to the traffic server **133** over a GPRS cellular network **132**, requesting that the traffic server **133** returns relevant dynamic travel information using a http request. The traffic server **133** then retrieves any relevant traffic information for any roads on that route and returns that information to the device **131** over network **132**. That information may be itself geocoded (e.g. include WGC 84 format location data) to define the location to which the dynamic travel information relates. Alternatively, it may in fact not be geocoded, in which case the Navigator software running on the device **131** geocodes that data so that it can use it. For example, non-geocoded data could be in TMC (Traffic Message Channel) format and the device **131** then includes in memory TMC tables that it can look up in order to relate TMC location data to a location in the geocoded co-ordinate system that the device uses so that it can display the travel information at the applicable position on the map and the linear representation. TMC is also deployed in FM Radio Data System (RDS) and is used for broadcasting real-time traffic and weather information.

The device **131** can regularly (or at pre-defined times or intervals) poll the traffic server **133** for updated dynamic travel information. Alternatively, the initial request for dynamic travel information can trigger the server **133** to automatically push updated dynamic travel information to the device **131** as and when it receives updated travel information of relevance. Another variant is for server **133** to continuously broadcast a repeating carousel of traffic information for all routes in a given area. Device **131** then listens at all

times to this broadcast, detecting whenever dynamic travel information of relevance to its route is broadcast and then capturing and using that information.

Because the device integrates dynamic travel information with a navigation program, it becomes far easier for a user to see if there are problems on a possible route and to recalculate that route to avoid those problems. Navigator facilitates route recalculation through a number of functions. Once a route has been re-calculated, a schematic of that route is displayed on the device together with dynamic travel information relating to that route; hence, the user can very quickly establish if the alternative route is better or worse than the original route.

Route re-calculation

An implementation of the present invention facilitates access to functions that enable alternative routes to be calculated by placing a menu of graphical icons (or any other kind of way or option to allow selection of the functions, such as lists, check boxes etc.) on a menu screen that is easily accessed from the main navigation screen – i.e. the screen that is displayed during actual or simulated/preview navigation. As noted above, in normal navigation mode (and also the 'demonstrate route' mode for simulated/preview navigation – see later), the device displays an animated map that shows the location of the navigation device as the journey progresses. Touching the map (i.e. the touch sensitive display) once (or twice in a different implementation) near to the screen centre (or any part of the screen in another implementation) will then call up a 'Recalculate' menu screen (see **Figure 10**) with large icons corresponding to various navigation functions, such as the option to calculate an alternative route **10C** ; re-calculate the route so as to avoid the next section of road **10A** (useful when faced with a roadblock); and recalculate the route so as to avoid specific, listed roads **10B**. The following sections describe these and other alternative route functions in more detail. Some of these functions may be initiated directly from the Recalculate menu screen; others may be at a deeper level in the menu structure. However, all can be initiated by selecting options such as graphical icons, lists, check boxes which are unambiguously associated with touch screen areas that are large enough to allow the user to select them with a fingertip whilst safely driving, typically at least 0.7cm^2 in area.

Alternative route function: 'avoid roadblock'

With this function, a user could select an 'avoid roadblock' function **10A** that causes the system to recalculate a route on the basis that the road immediately ahead (or some user defined or system default distance ahead, e.g. 100 metres) is blocked.

As noted earlier, a route planning algorithm in Navigator will work out an optimal route (optimal may refer to criteria such as shortest time or shortest distance, or some other factors) by exploring different routes and scoring them against the required criteria. In this way, one route which best meets the defied criteria is generated. If whilst actually driving along a route, an unexpected event occurs that requires the user to detour away from the pre-calculated route, such as a roadblock, the user can inform the Navigator software that his immediate road ahead is blocked and require the software to re-calculate a new route, taking his current position as a new starting position, but taking the first turning possible away from the old calculated route. This first turning might be ahead or behind the current car position. The system, in constructing the new route, explores a large number of possible routes to the destination from the current position, but excludes the road immediately ahead.

Selecting the 'avoid roadblock' function **10A** has to be fast and involve the absolute minimum number of screen interactions to minimise driver distraction. This can be achieved by the user being able to switch from normal navigation mode (in which the current position of the car is shown on a map, as shown in **Figures 1** or **2**) to a Recalculate menu mode, as shown in **Figure 10**, by pressing a key or selecting any point on the screen or selecting a given region of the screen. Where a given region has to be selected (e.g. the approximate centre of the map), then the touch activation zone is sufficiently large that it can readily and reliably be selected by a user with his fingertip without needing to look carefully at the screen for more than a moment. A touch zone of $0.7cm^2$, centred on the map, has been found to be sufficient.

The **Figure 10** menu mode displays a small number of large icons, one of which is the 'avoid roadblock' **10A** option. This can be selected with one touch; when this occurs, the software re-calculates the route and gives instructions in the normal manner (voice; and/or on screen navigation prompts) to allow the user to proceed to his destination but avoid the road immediately ahead.

Alternative route function: 'avoid specific road'

This function allows a user to easily and rapidly select a specific, named road **10B** to mark as blocked so that he can use information from real time traffic information broadcasts on the radio.

When listening to the radio, a user may hear that a specific road or perhaps part of a motorway between defined junctions is blocked or heavily congested. Alternatively, the device may receive dynamic travel information, e.g. from a remote server, which will provide data that certain roads are affected by congestion, adverse weather, other local incidents etc. If that road is on the user's calculated route, even though it might be many kilometres away, then he will want to have the software recalculate a new route as soon as possible. The next three such adversely affected roads are automatically listed on the Recalculate route menu **Figure 10** to facilitate the driver selecting any of those roads as roads to be excluded from a fresh route re-calculation. The system does this re-calculation by calculating a route to the final destination using the current position as a start position and exploring different routes to the destination, but excluding the road indicated as to be avoided. The new route will then be calculated using normal route planning algorithms and the user diverted onto the new route.

Selecting the 'avoid specific road' function **10B** has also to be fast and involve the absolute minimum number of screen interactions to minimise driver distraction. This can be achieved by the user being able to switch from normal navigation mode (**Figures 1** or **2**, in which the current position of the car is shown on a map) to a Recalculate menu mode as described earlier (e.g. selecting a given region on the screen); the Recalculate menu displays a small number of large icons, several of which are named roads **10B** on the route which, if selected, can be selected with one touch; when this occurs, the software re-calculates the route and gives instructions in the normal manner (voice; and/or on screen navigation prompts) to allow the user to proceed to his destination but avoid the road immediately ahead. The device may have limited screen space to display many roads for exclusion; the **Figure 3** implementation lists three. These three are selected using various weighting parameters (e.g. a prior history of the user wishing to avoid them; the next three major roads) or from dynamic, updated travel information received by the device from a traffic information data source, indicating that these are the next three roads on the route that are affected by traffic disturbance of some kind.

A final 'original' option **10D** allows the user to clear all earlier re-calculation inputs and re-calculate the original route.

Alternative route function: auto generate

A user can also simply select 'alternative route' **10C** if he wants to see another possible route: the system then recalculates a route, not using at least 80% of the roads from the prior route. If that route is still unsuitable, the user can obtain another alternative route again by selecting again 'alternative route' **10C**.

Alternative route planning: selecting calculation modes

A user can select 'normal', 'strict' and 'fast' planning modes: each results in different route planning algorithms being used that calculate the route either normally, or strictly (which may take many minutes as a great many permutations are explored) or quickly, (which may take a few seconds only as many simplifying assumptions are made about the optimal route).

CLAIMS

1. A navigation device programmed with a map database and software that enables a route to be planned between two user-defined places, wherein the device is further programmed to be able to display a schematic view of at least part of the route, in which one or more roads that form part of the route are shown together with dynamic travel information relating to the or each road.

2. The device of Claim 1 in which the schematic view is a schematic view showing the entire route on a single screen.

3. The device of any preceding Claim in which the schematic view is a linear representation of the route and that schematic linear representation is displayed at the same time but separate from a map of a 2-D or 3-D representation of the actual road being travelled along and the current location of the device on that road.

4. The device of any preceding Claim which displays a map with a 2-D or 3-D representation of the actual route being travelled along and the current location of the device on a road that forms part of the route, and the dynamic travel information is overlaid over the road and/or another road that forms part of the route and is an animated representation of traffic conditions.

5. The device of Claim 4 in which the animated representation of traffic conditions overlaid over the road is displayed at the same time as the schematic view.

6. The device of Claim 4 in which the animated representation of traffic conditions overlaid over the road is not displayed at the same time as the schematic view.

7. The device of Claims 4 - 6 in which the animated representation of traffic conditions graphically represents the traffic flow direction.

8. The device of Claim 7 in which the animated representation of traffic conditions also graphically represents one or more of the following traffic conditions:

(i) stationery traffic;

(ii) queuing traffic;

(iii) slow traffic;

(iv) road closure or lane closure or road works.

9. The device of any preceding Claim in which the dynamic travel information is represented by a graphical icon or other kind of selectable option that represents one or more of the following:

(i) accident;

(ii) traffic jam;

(iii) road works;

(iv) road closure;

(v). general incident;

(vi) lane closed;

(v) heavy rain;

(vi) strong winds;

(vii) ice;

(viii) fog.

10. The device of Claim 9 in which the option can be selected by touching the option, causing the device to display more details of the dynamic travel information associated with that option.

11. The device of any preceding Claim further programmed to be able to display a navigation map on a touch screen display, the map updating the current position of the device; wherein the user can, by touching the screen, task away from the navigation map to a menu screen which displays one or more options that, if selected through a further touch action, initiate a re-calculation of the route.

12. The device of Claim 10 or 11 in which the touch to the screen is a single or a double touch.

13. The device of Claim 12 in which the touch has to be at a region of the touch screen sized to be sufficiently large to allow it to be reliably selected with a fingertip.

14. The device of Claim 13 in which the region is at least $0.7cm^2$ in area.

15. The device of Claim 11 in which the menu screen displays selectable options relating to one or more of the following functions:

(a) calculate alternative route;

(b) calculate alternative route without including a predefined extent of the road ahead;

(c) calculate alternative route without including a predefined road;

(d) revert to original route.

16. The device of Claim 9 in which each selectable option is one of the following:

(a) a graphical icon;

(b) a control or check box; or

(c) a name.

17. The device of any preceding Claim that receives dynamic travel information sent to the device over a wireless network.

18. The device of Claim 17 in which the dynamic travel information sent to the device comprises geocoded data that defines the location to which the dynamic travel information relates.

19. The device of Claim 17 in which the dynamic travel information sent to the device comprises non-geocoded location data that defines the location to which the dynamic travel information relates and the software on the device geocodes that data.

20. The device of Claim 19 in which the non-geocoded data is in TMC format and the device includes in memory TMC tables that it can look up in order to relate the TMC format data to a location in the geocoded co-ordinate system that the device uses so that it can display the travel information at the applicable position.

21. The device of any preceding claim that can send a request to a remote server over a wireless communications network for dynamic travel information relevant to a defined

route, the remote server (i) receiving dynamic travel information from one or more data feeds in relation to numerous roads and (ii) sending the dynamic travel information that is relevant to the defined route to the device in response to the request.

22. The device of Claim 21 that regularly or at pre-defined times or intervals polls the server for updated dynamic travel information.

23. The device of Claim 21 in which the request is an initial request for dynamic travel information and subsequently the server automatically pushes updated dynamic travel information to the device.

24. A method of displaying navigation information, the method being deployed in a navigation device programmed with a map database and software that enables a route to be planned between two user-defined places, wherein the device is further programmed to be able to display a schematic view of at least part of the route, in which one or more roads that form part of the route are shown together with dynamic travel information relating to the or each road.

25. Computer software adapted to enable a navigation device, programmed with a map database and software that enables a route to be planned between two user-defined places and displayed on a navigation map on a touch screen display, the map updating the current position of the device; wherein the software enables the device to display a schematic view of at least part of the route, in which one or more roads that form part of the route are shown together with dynamic travel information relating to the or each road.

Abstract

NAVIGATION DEVICE DISPLAYING DYNAMIC TRAVEL INFORMATION

An in-car navigation device depicts dynamic travel information (congestions, weather, etc.) in the context of a schematic display of the actual roads that the information relates to. In one implementation, the schematic view is a linear representation of the route and that schematic linear representation is displayed at the same time but separate from a map of a 2-D or 3-D representation of the actual road being travelled along and the current location of the device on that road. The device can send a request to a remote server over a wireless communications network for dynamic travel information relevant to a defined route and receive and display that information.

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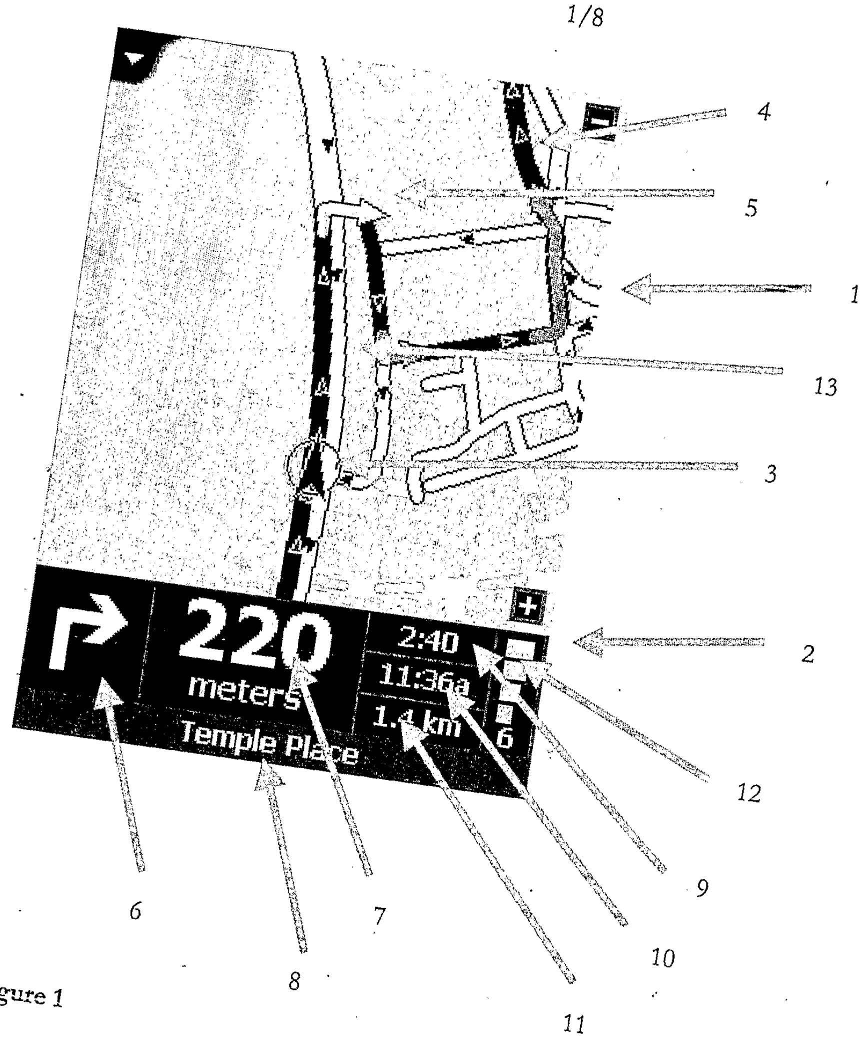
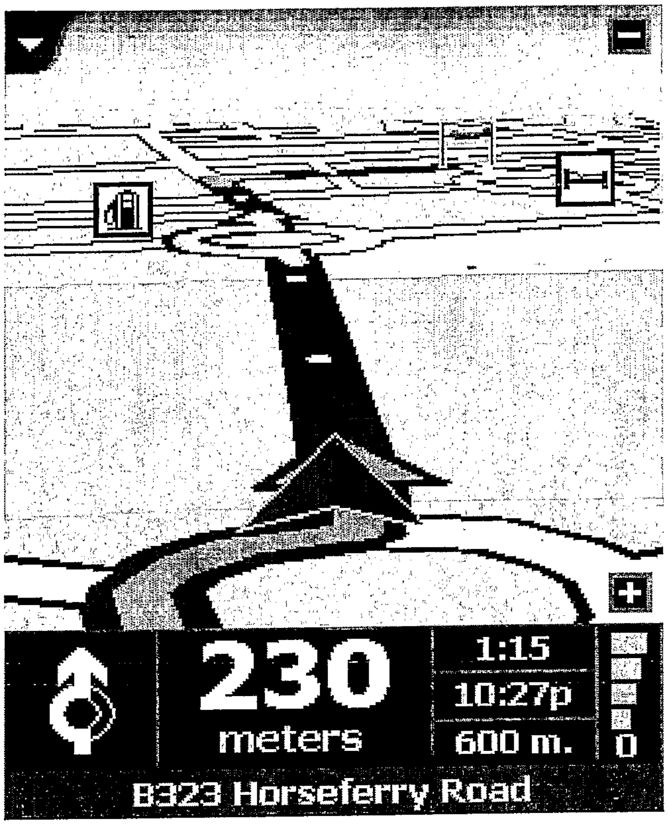


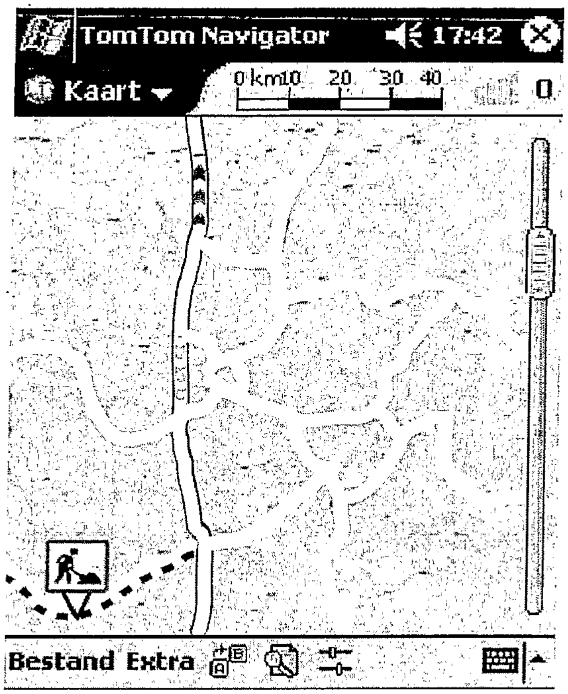
Figure 1

Figure 2



Dynamic content

Figure 3



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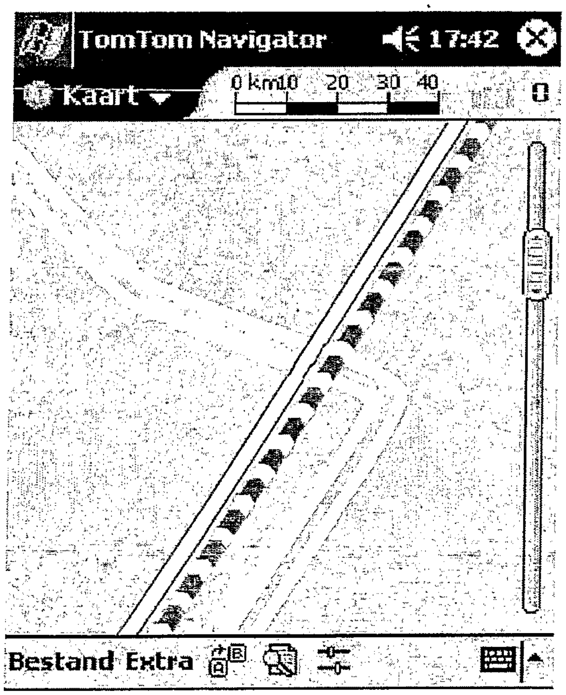

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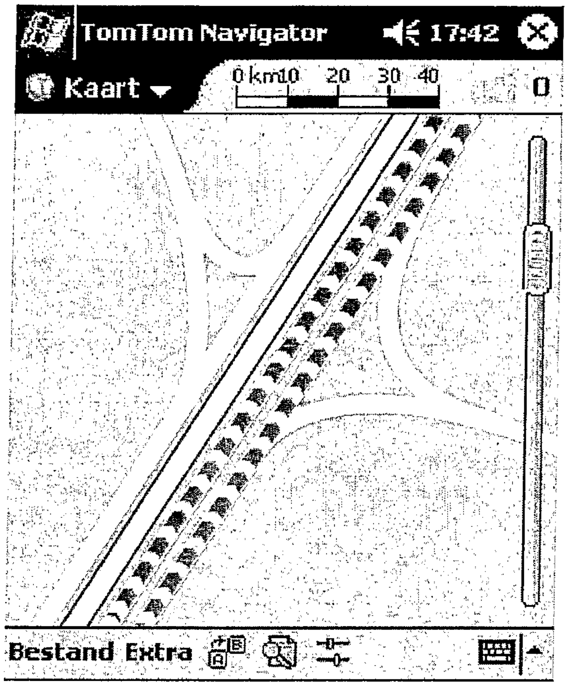

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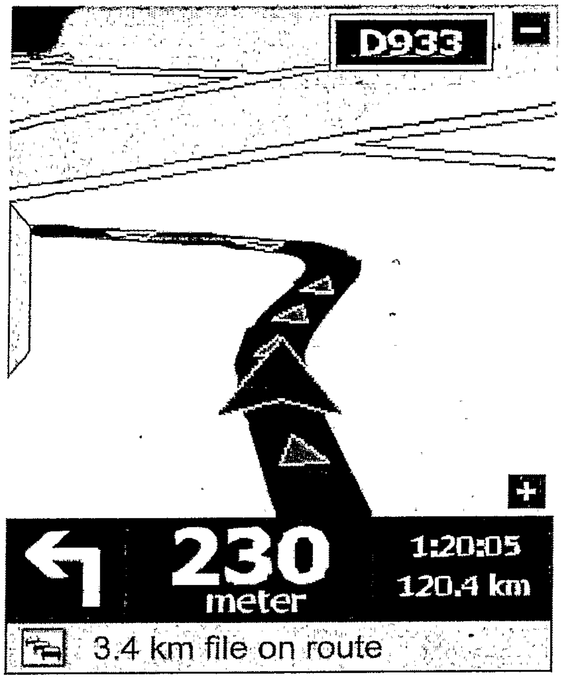

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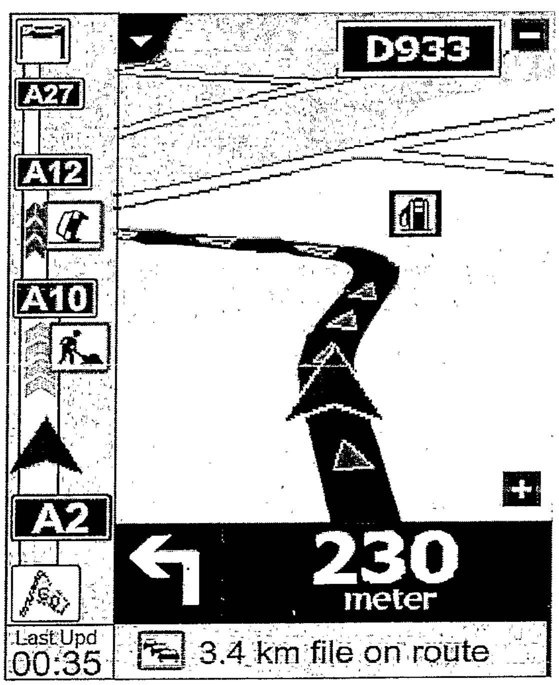

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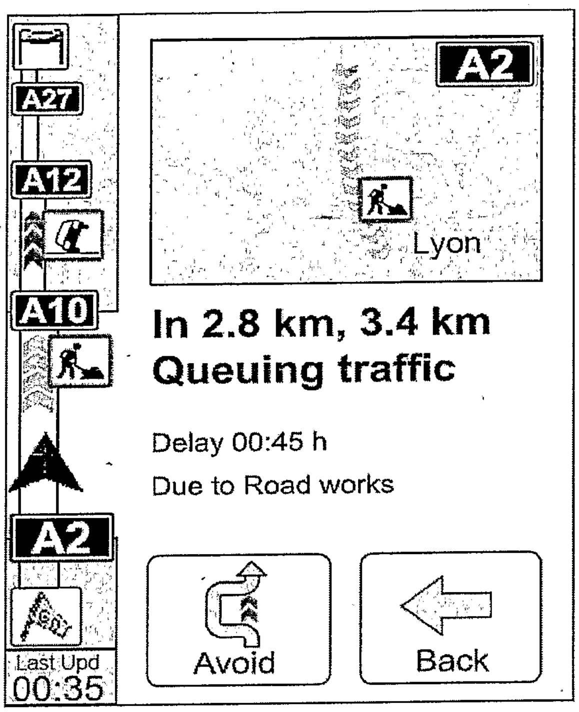

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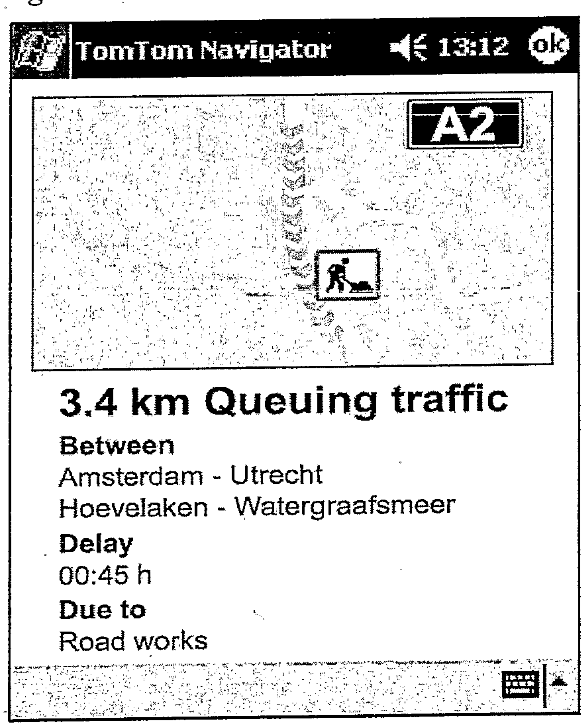

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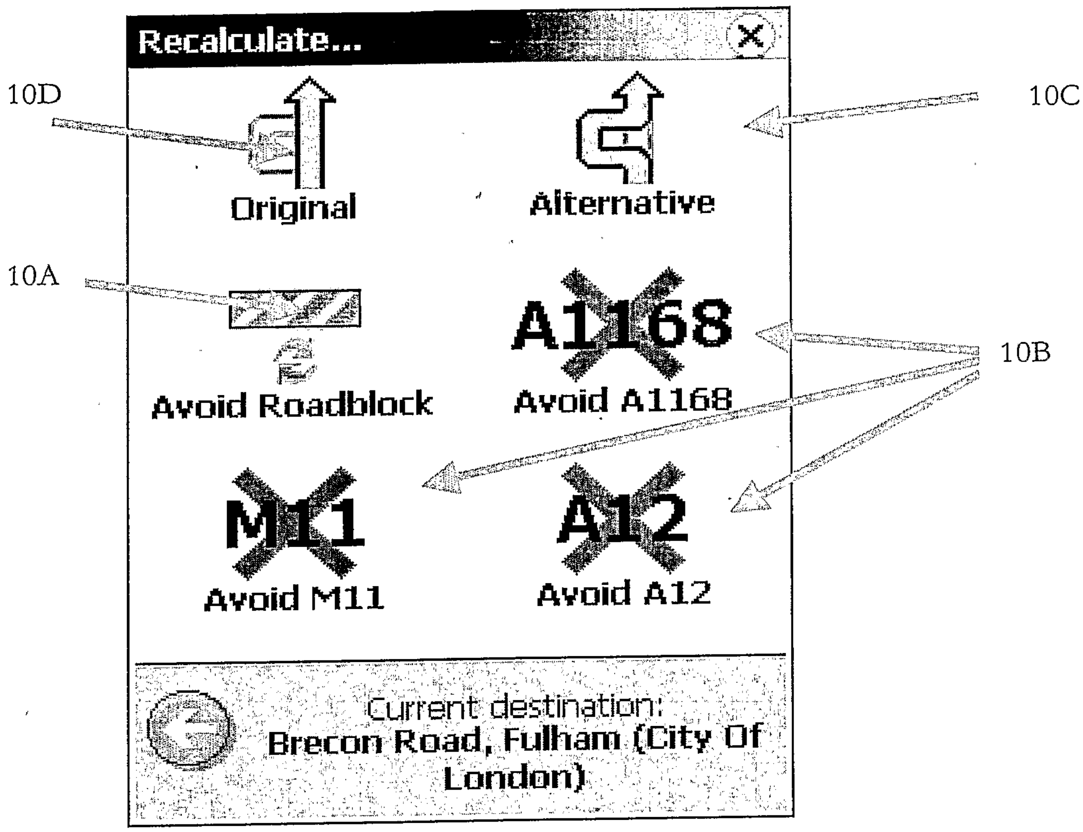

Figure 11

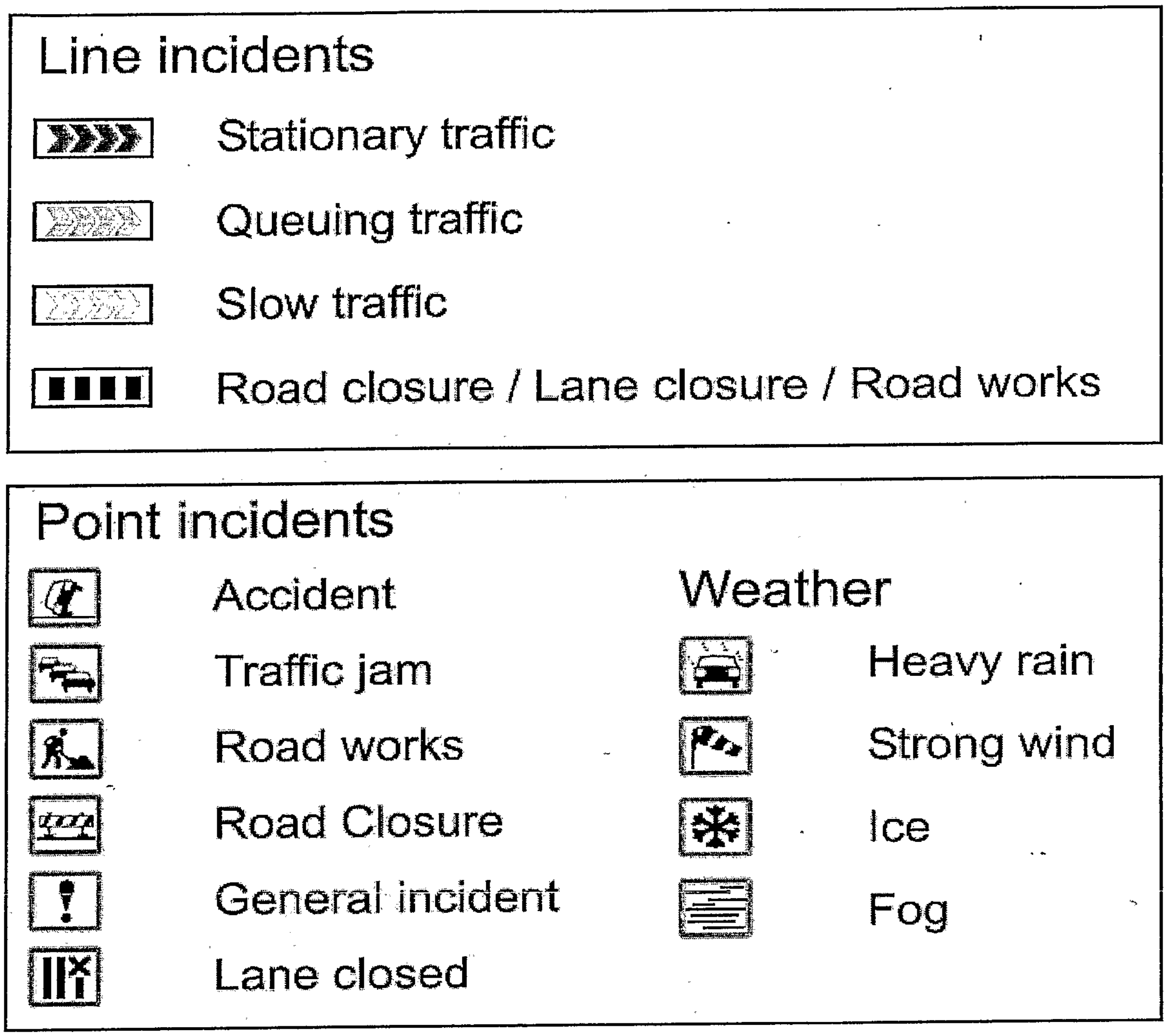

Figure 12

Figure 13